



Gathering of Eagles

by Richard Faint

FOR the past 25 years or so the last weekend in August has been synonymous with a great fly-in at Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield. For many years there was the Queensland Vintage Aeroplane Group's highly successful Festival of Flight. And, in more recent times, the Gathering of Eagles - Australia has filled the bill by attracting a wide range of aircraft with an exceptional turn-out of vintage and ex-military aircraft.

Without doubt one of the major attractions of this year's Gathering was the wonderfully colourful formations of YAK and Nanchang aircraft thundering around the skies. Another highlight was the Winds of War, a group of military re-enactors who went to great lengths to recreate the look, feel and atmosphere of a bygone era, much in keeping with the origins and history of Watts Bridge. Also on display were several of the growing collection of WW1 replica

aircraft which are under construction on the field.

Many rare and noteworthy aircraft attended included a rare de Havilland Dove, the immaculate L-200 Morava, two Boeing Stearmans (Stearmen?), a T28 Trojan, half a dozen de Havilland Tiger Moths, several CT4 / Victa Air Tourers, a superb V tailed Waiex and a replica Supermarine Spitfire.

But, as always, the real stars were the pilots and navigators of the more than 130 general and recreational aviation aircraft who flew in to enjoy the day. Great weather, good food, cold drinks, efficient ground marshals and a higher than usual turn out from the general public, all contributed to a highly successful Gathering of Eagles 2014.

A comprehensive photo gallery can be found on the Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield's website at www.wattsbridge.com.au/events/goe2014.php.



>> Sport Pilot regular contributor Arthur Marcel and the Sapphire



>> Thatcher CX4



>> Yak 18



Many rare and noteworthy aircraft attended

>> The Stearman drew admirers